

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /158 W

----- 055328

R 120813Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1235

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: JAPANESE REACTION TO US-SAUDI COOPERATION

1. ANNOUNCEMENT BY US AND SAUDI ARABIA OF THEIR INTENTION TO EXPAND COOPERATION ELICITED PRACTICALLY NO REACTION IN JAPAN. SOME NEWSPAPERS AND TRADE JOURNALS HAVE CARRIED FACTUAL REPORTS, WHILE OTHER PAPERS HAVE IGNORED STORY COMPLETELY. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM FONOFF MIDDLE EAST DIV. RE DETAILS OF ANY AGREEMENT, EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT SPECIFIC FORMS COOPERATION MIGHT TAKE, SINCE NO AGREEMENT ACTUALLY SIGNED. ME DIVISION OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD HAD VERY FEW QUESTIONS FROM WITHIN FONOFF ON EXPANDEDUS-SAUDI COOPERATION AND ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO QUESTIONS ASKED ON SUBJECT IN DIET THUS FAR.

3. OFFICIAL OF FONOFF ANALYSIS DIV. TOLD EMBOFF THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE PRESS OR DIET REACTION,
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ANALYSIS DIV. WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THAT FONOFF VIEWED U.S. INITIATIVE AS BEING MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL RATHER THAN ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AND ADDED HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT US-SAUDI MOVE WAS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH JAPAN'S INTEREST. SAUDI ARABIA IS CONSERVATIVE AND ANTI-COMMUNIST COUNTRY, AND IT IS NATURAL THAT ITS TIES WITH THE U.S. BE STRENGTHENED. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE U.S. WAS SEEKING TO MONOPOLIZE SAUDI OIL PRODUCTION, SINCE U.S. MOVING TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SAUDI PRODUCTION WILL BE IN EXCESS OF OUR NEEDS. IN FACT HE SAID, FONOFF VIEWS U.S. PRESENCE IN REGION AS STABILIZING FORCE WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE GREATER PRODUCTION OF SAUDI OIL THEREBY EASING OIL SHORTAGES.

4. ON RELATED MATTER, FONOFF THUS FAR HAS VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ON KING FAISAL'S ANNOUNCED APPROVAL OF JAPANESE-SAUDI CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT (SEE JIDDA 1783). FONOFF HAS NOT EVEN RECEIVED TEXT OF WHAT HAS BEEN APPROVED IN JIDDA AND HAS ENTERED INTO NO AGREEMENT. FONOFF THUS IS CONSIDERING APR 5 ANNOUNCEMENT IN SAUDI PRESS ONLY AS INDICATION SAUDIS READY TO BEGIN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXT OF AGREEMENT.
EDMOND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO04848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740085-0147
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740444/aaaabnoz.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE REACTION TO US-SAUDI COOPERATION
TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005